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MARCH 1999

TERRORISM REVIEW

TIER
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DI TR 99-003
March 1999

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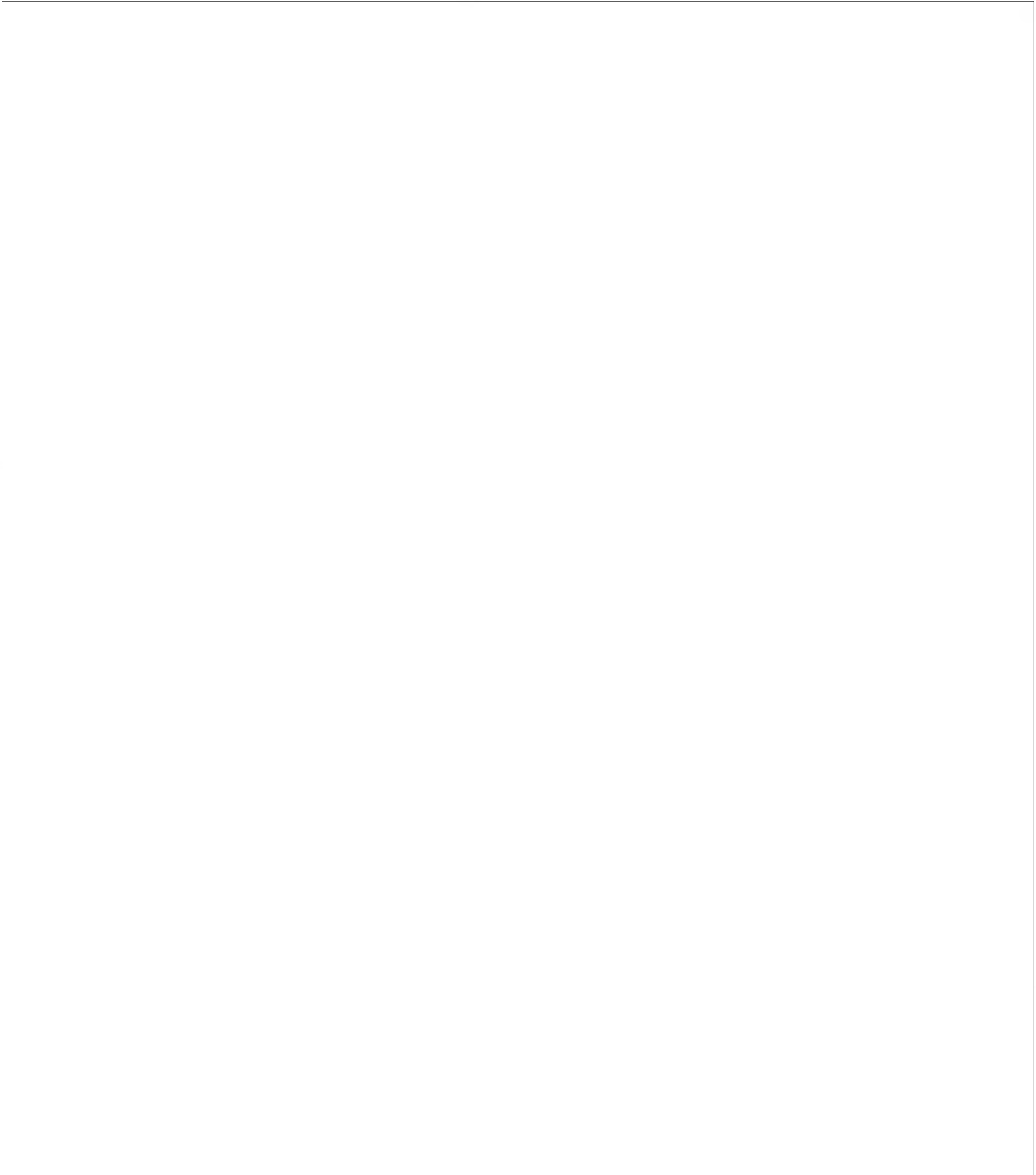
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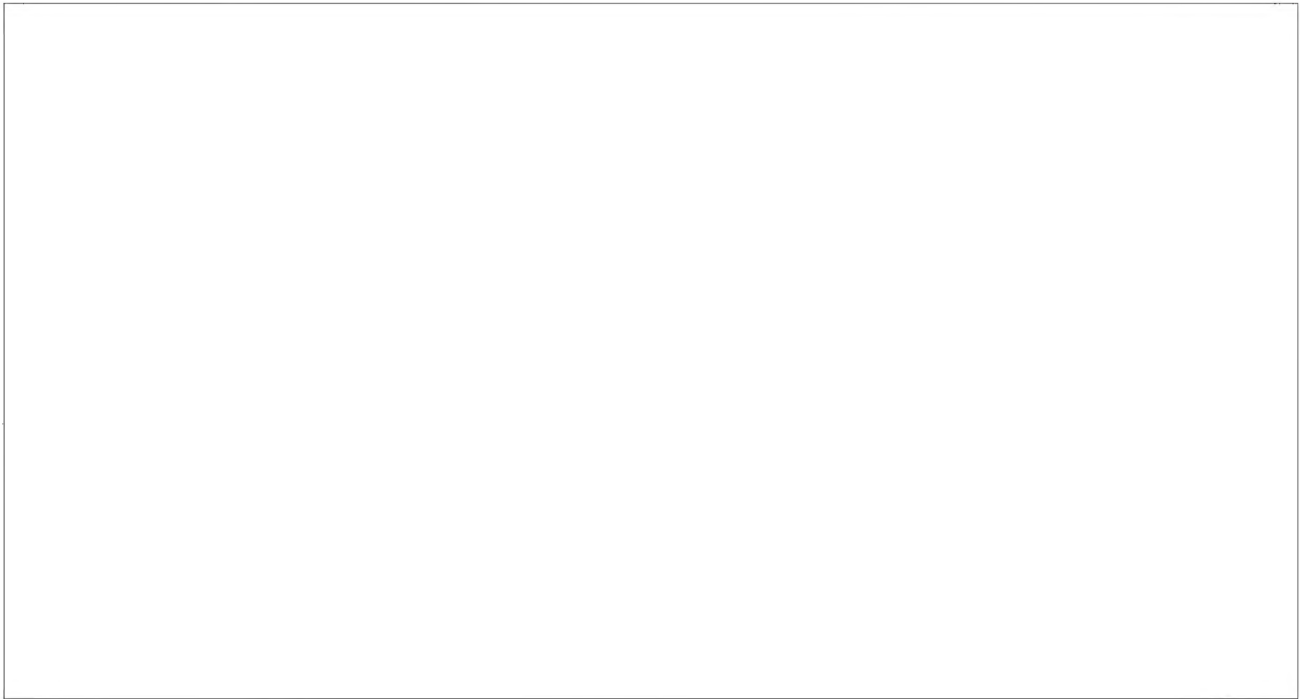
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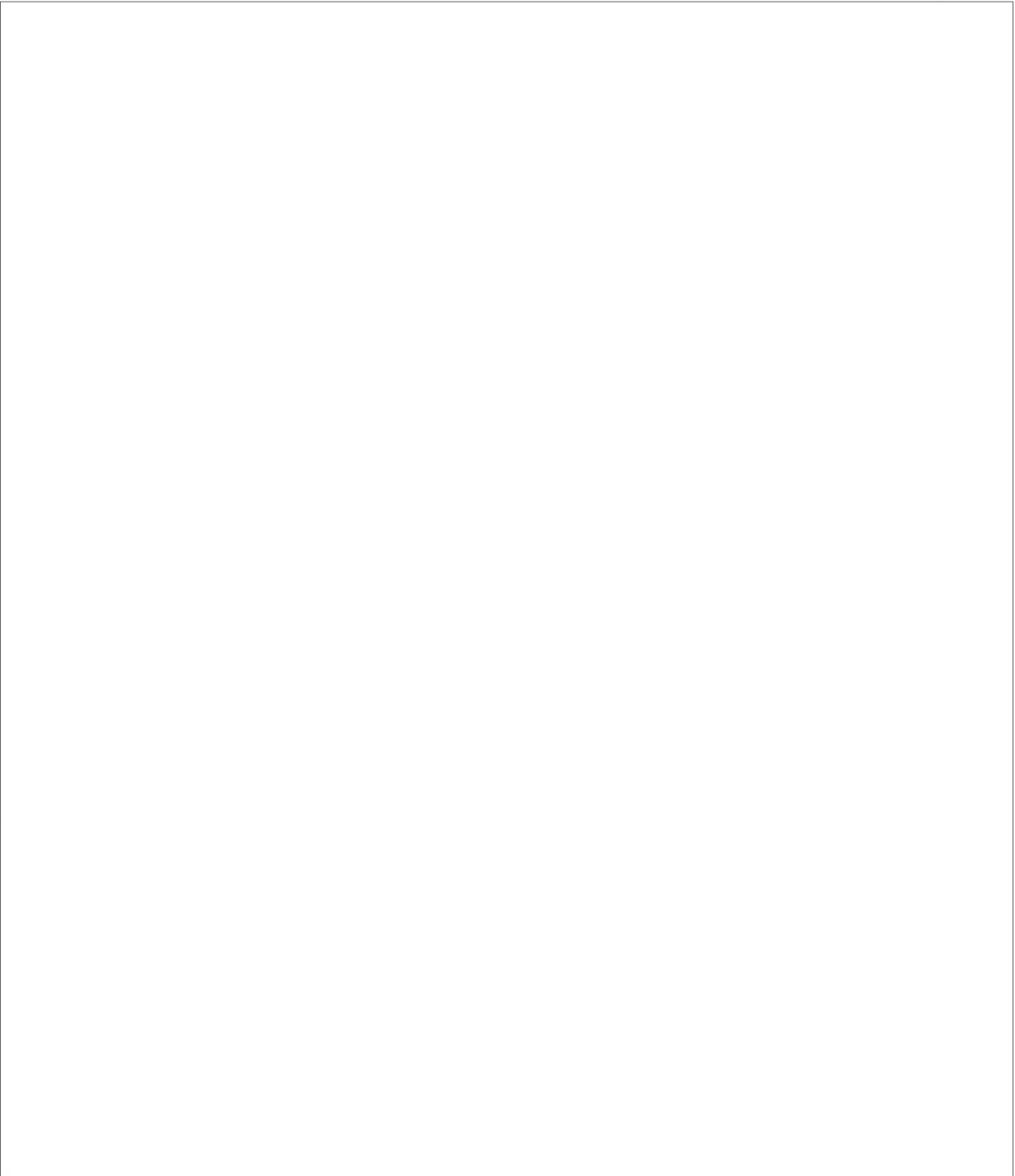
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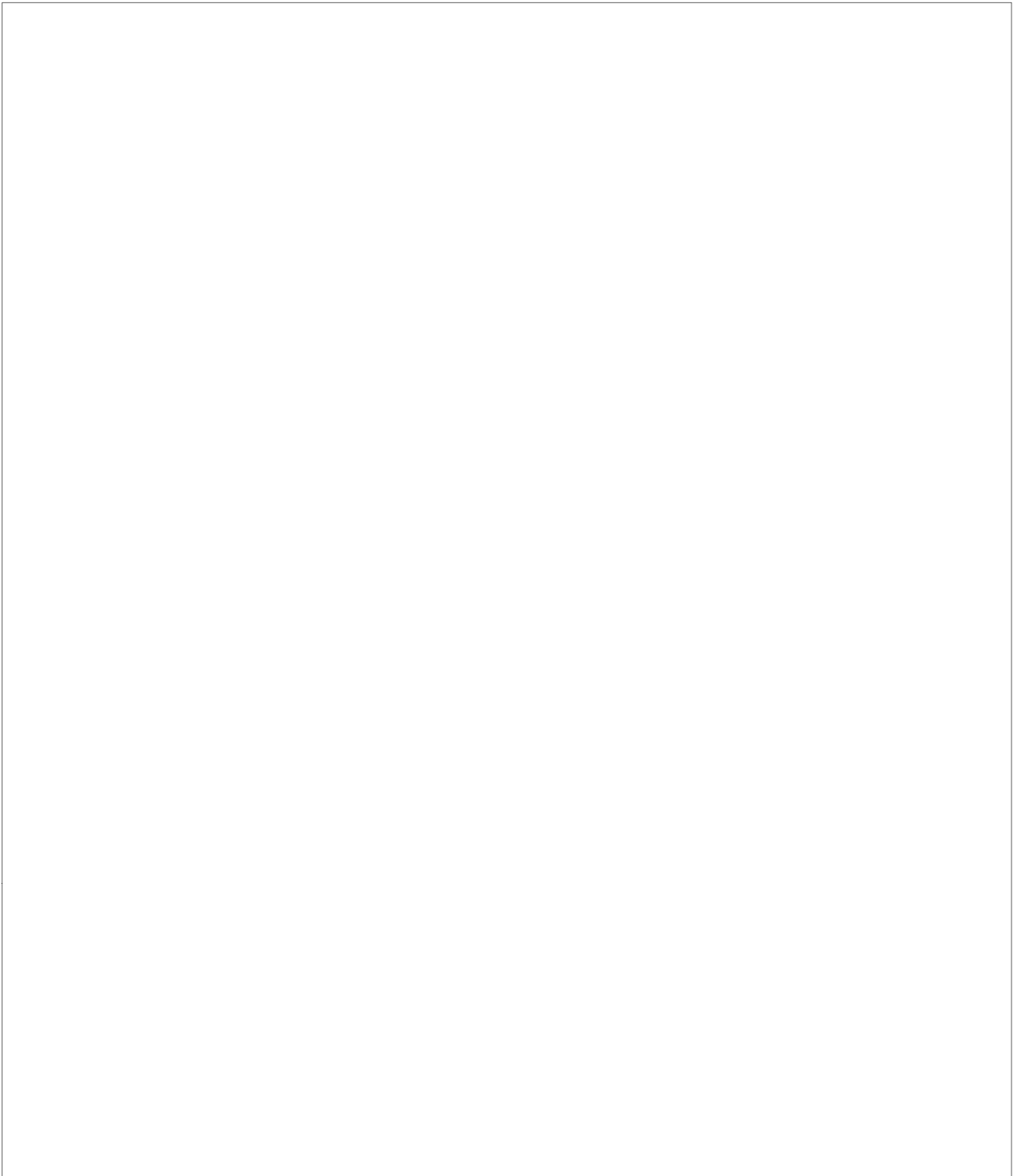


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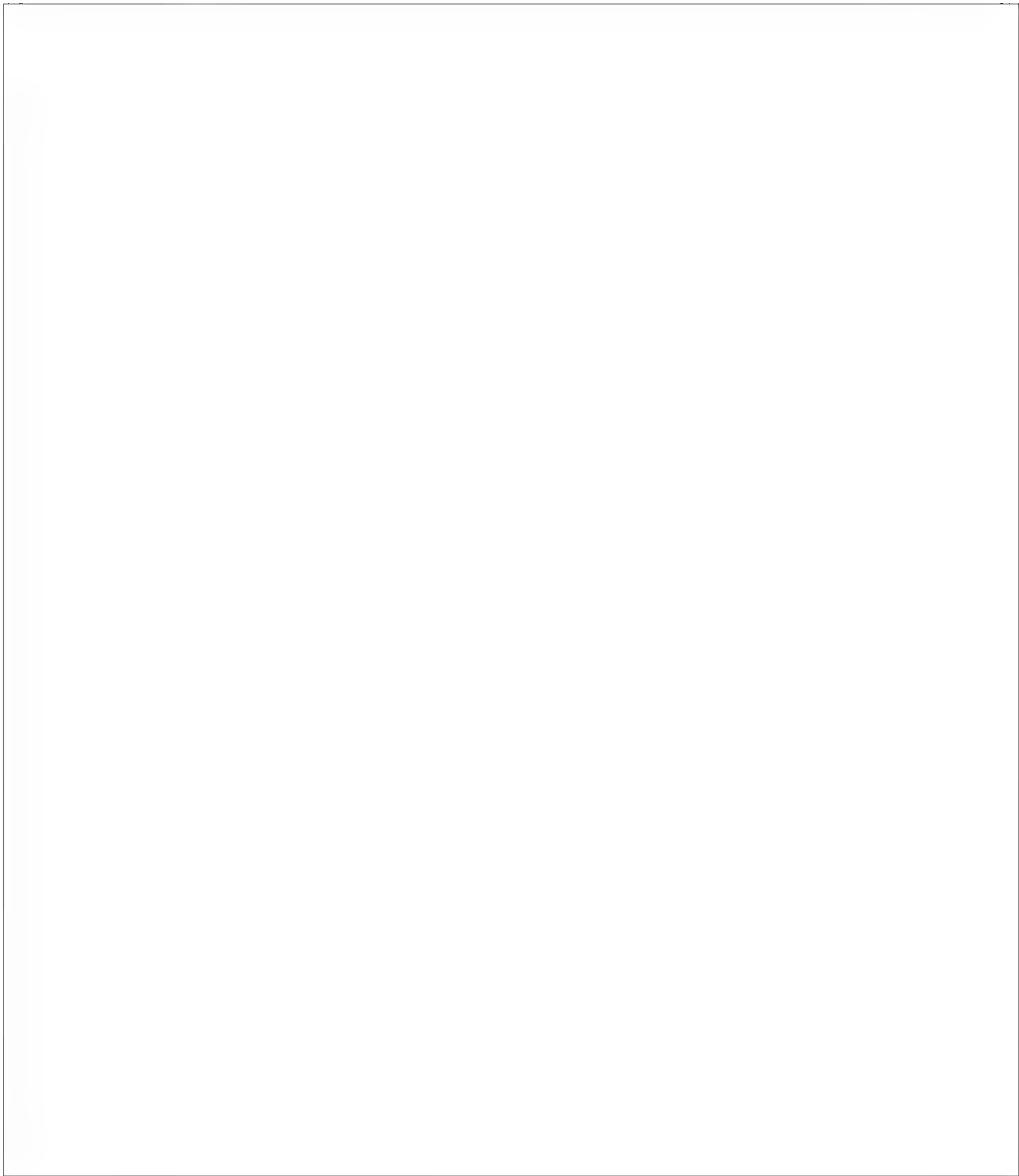
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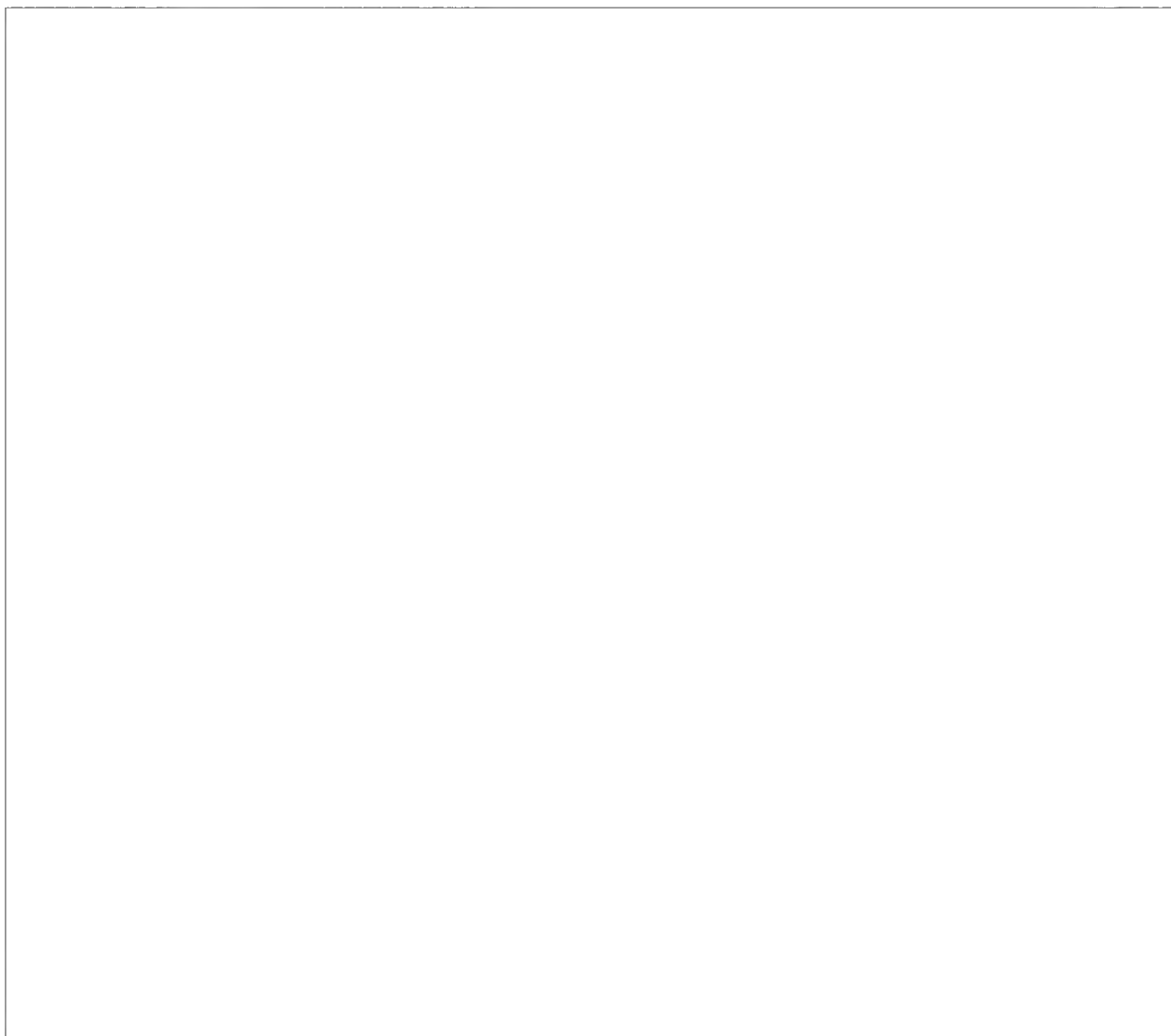
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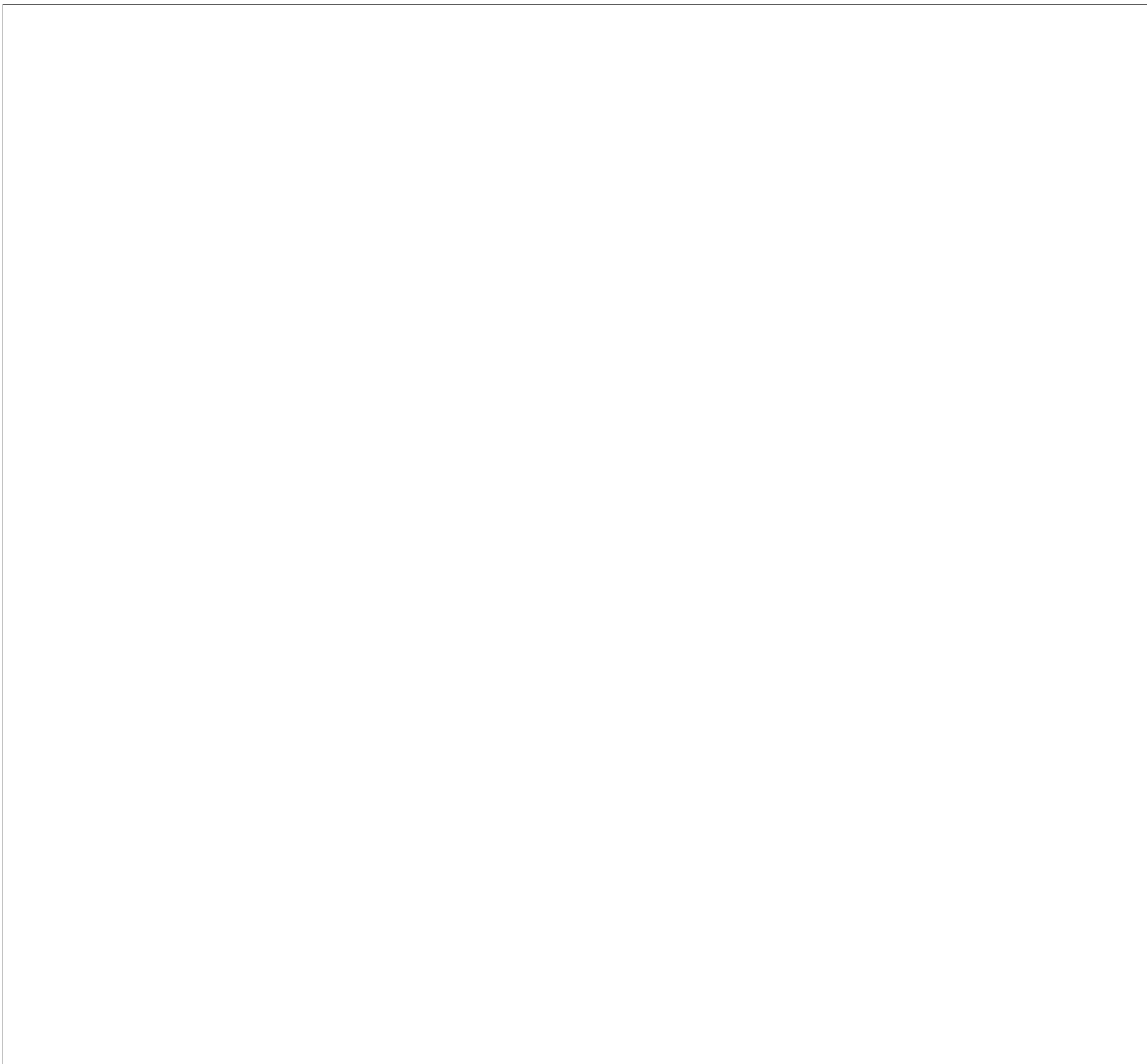
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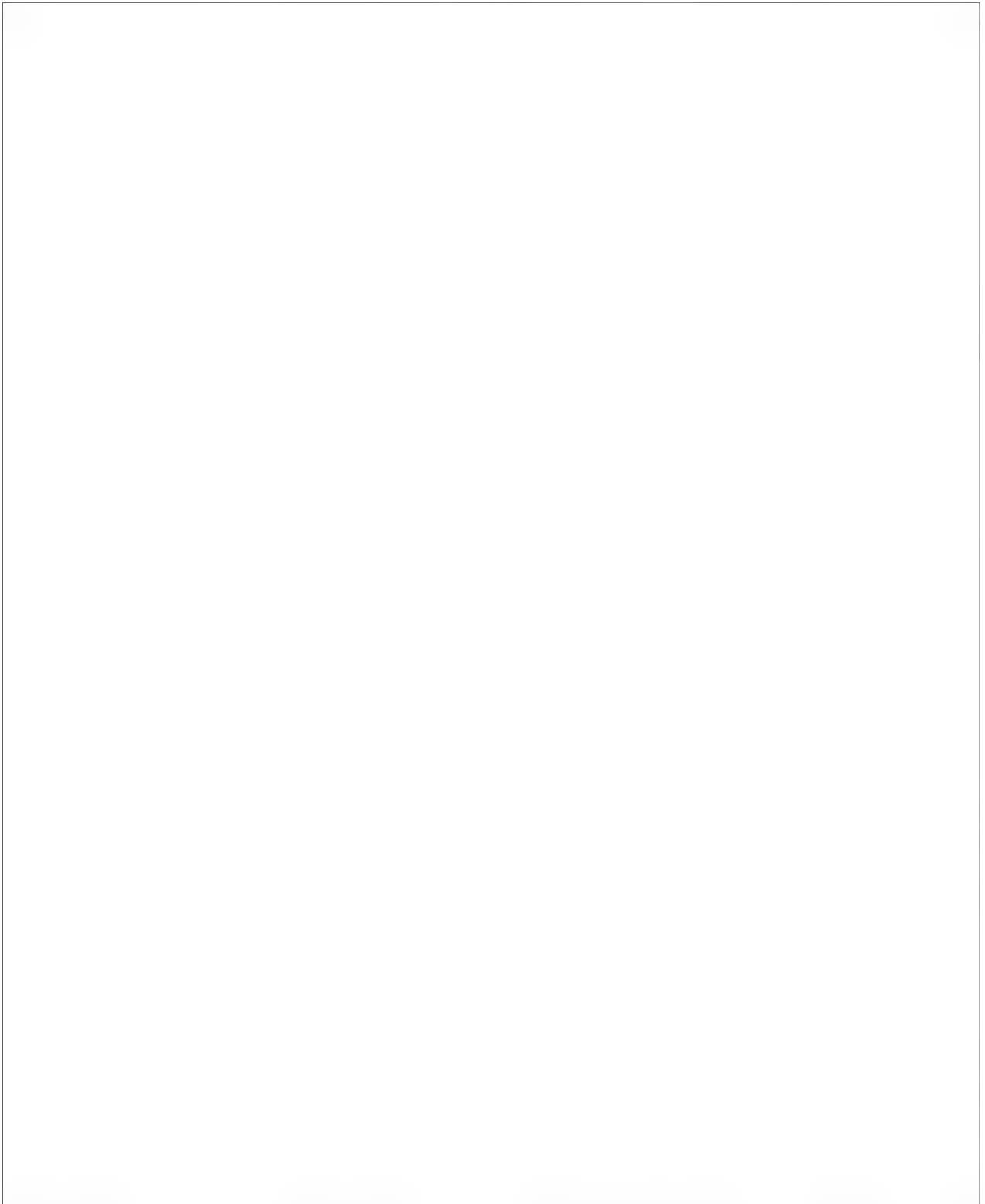
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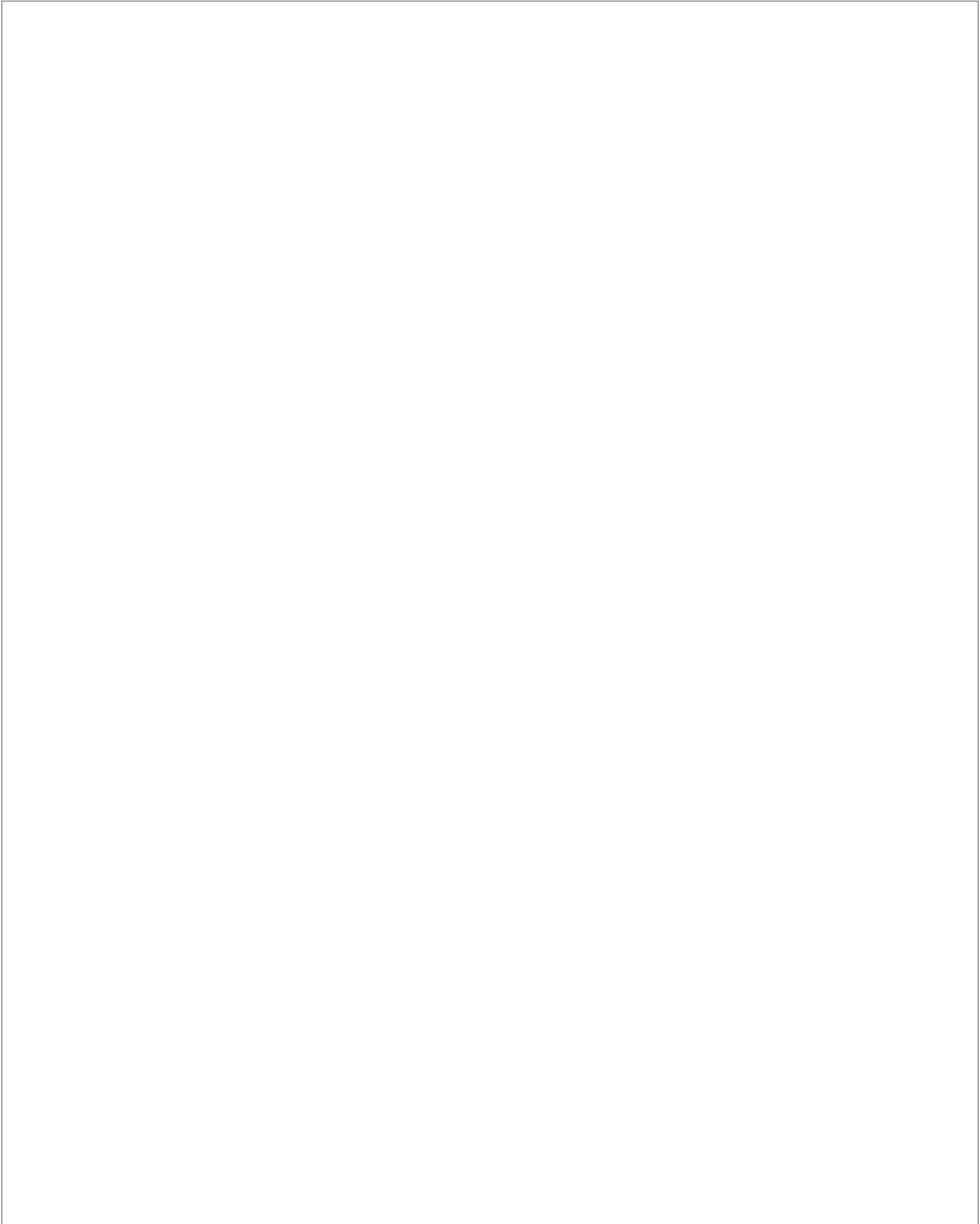


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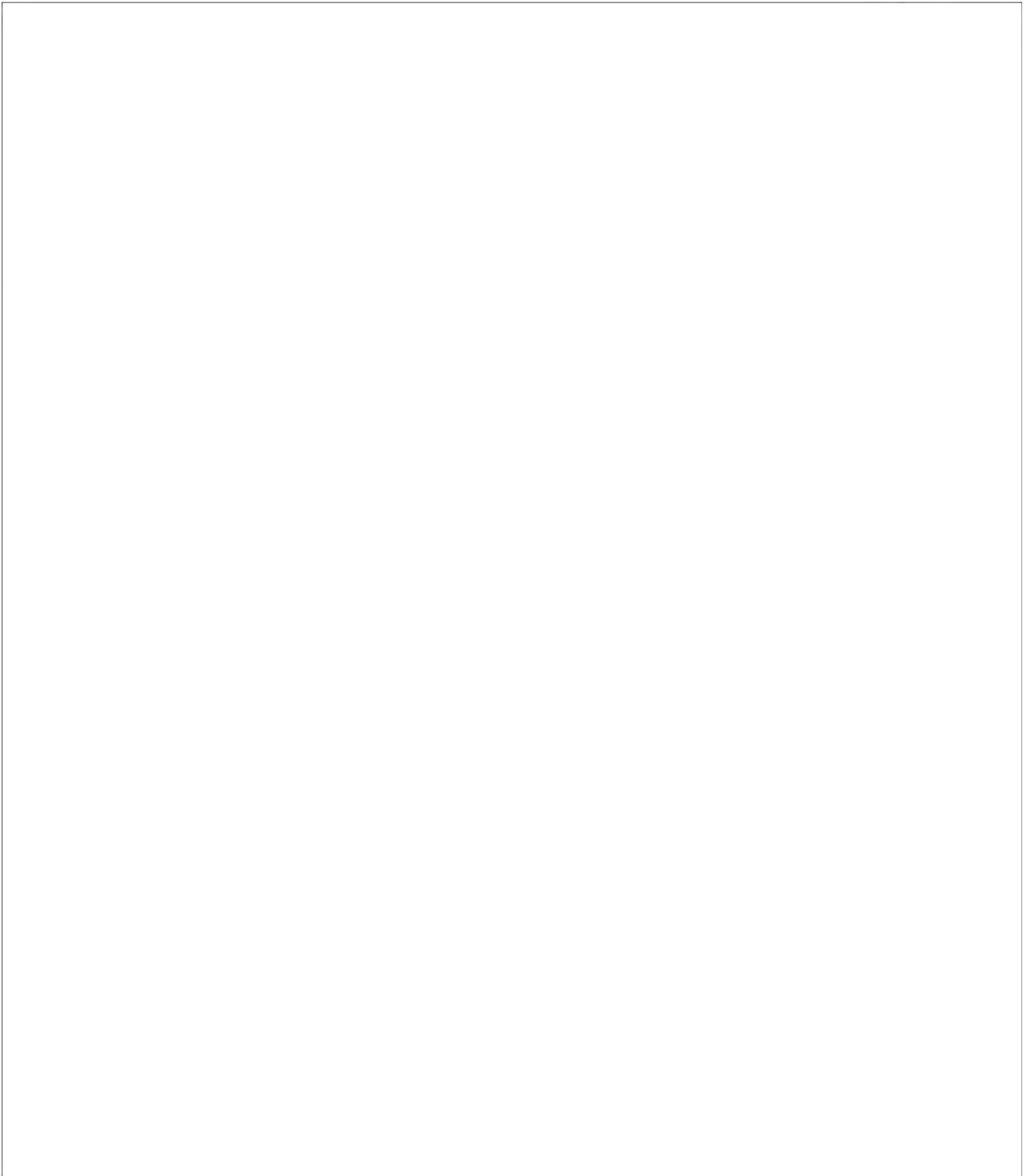
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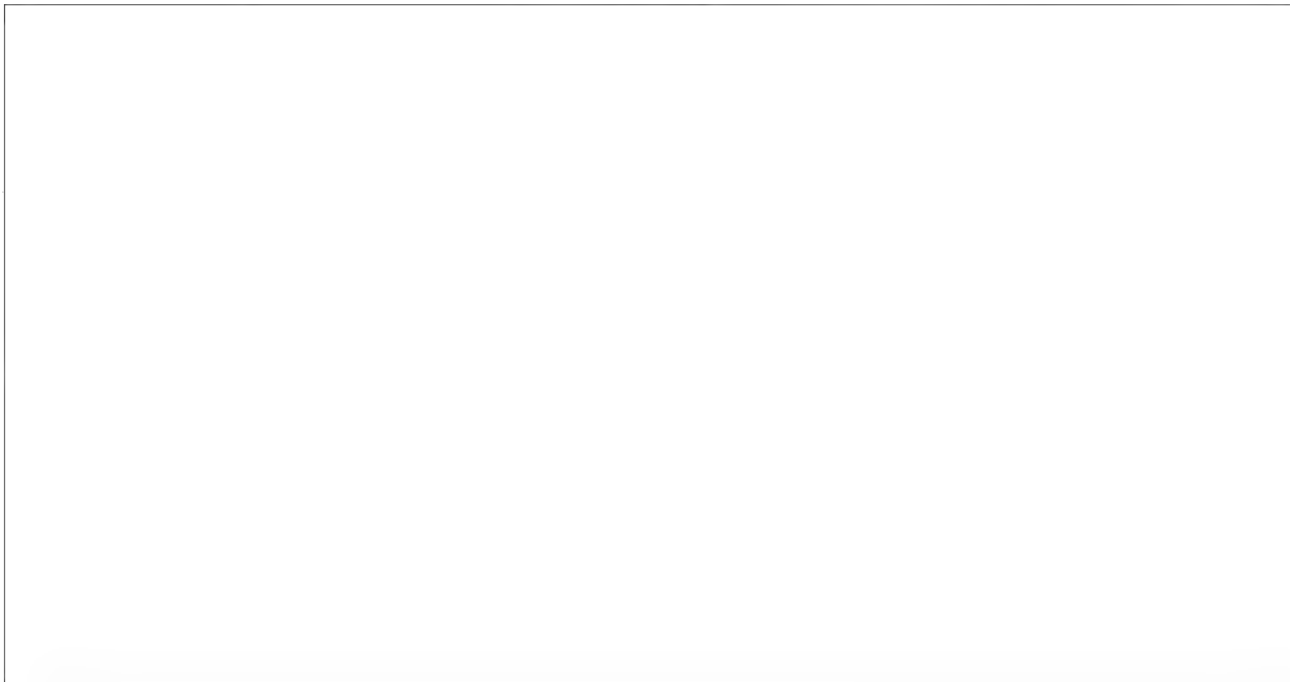


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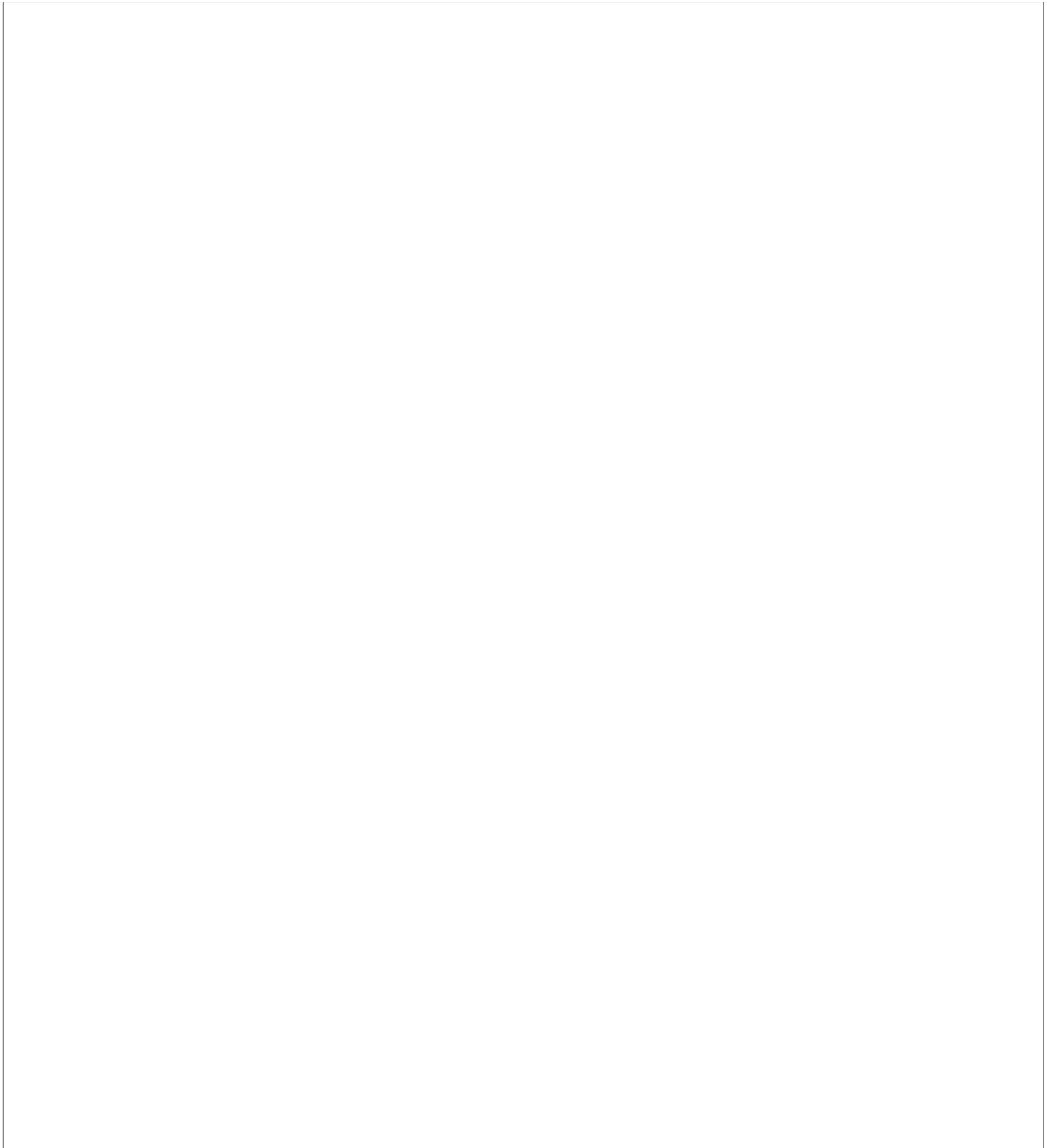
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Latin America



FARC Killings Underscore Terrorist Threat to US Citizens in Colombia

The killing in early March of three US citizens by members of the insurgent Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)'s 10th Front—possibly against the orders of the group's ruling Secretariat—raises questions about the organization's command and control and highlights the heightened risk to US citizens irrespective of Colombia's nascent peace process and diplomatic maneuvering.

- The 10th Front is a notoriously undisciplined renegade unit with extensive ties to the narcotics trade, [redacted]

The FARC guerrillas had kidnapped the three US citizens on 25 February in Colombia's Arauca Department near the Venezuelan border. The guerrillas' motive remains unclear, but their concern over the US citizens' intentions in the area appears to have prompted the abduction.

From the outset the abduction did not appear to be a typical insurgent kidnapping-for-ransom operation.

- There is no evidence that the FARC planned to demand a ransom, which rebels have done in the majority of the nearly 100 cases involving the abduction of US citizens in Colombia since 1980. Guerrillas typically abduct a Colombian or local national with the foreign hostages to release later with a ransom demand, which the FARC did not do in this case. [redacted]

Intense, indoctrinated mistrust of the United States and paranoia over US intentions in Colombia aroused the guerrillas' concern and probably contributed to their decision to murder the hostages.

- Audiotapes released by the Colombian Government revealed a local FARC commander's conviction that the kidnapped US citizens were "from the CIA" and were "using the indigenous communities as a front." The commander also referred to US "plans to invade." [redacted]

The FARC guerrillas may have murdered the three US citizens in defiance of orders not to kill them from Jorge Briceno Suarez, a.k.a. Mono Jojoy, a FARC Secretariat member thought to be the organization's second in command, according to press and other reporting.

- [redacted] regional commander German Briceno Suarez, a.k.a. Grannobles—who oversees several guerrilla units, including the 10th Front, and is Jorge Briceno's brother—endorsed a request from his subordinate commander to kill the three US citizen hostages and relayed it to Jorge Briceno, who denied the request.

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[REDACTED]

The abduction and murder of US citizens ran counter to earlier statements by the FARC Secretariat aimed at continuing a dialogue with US officials and reveals a disconnect between the ruling body's apparent diplomatic agenda and guerrilla activities in the field. This disconnect may reflect a division between hardline military strategists and more politically astute leaders in the Secretariat itself. [REDACTED]

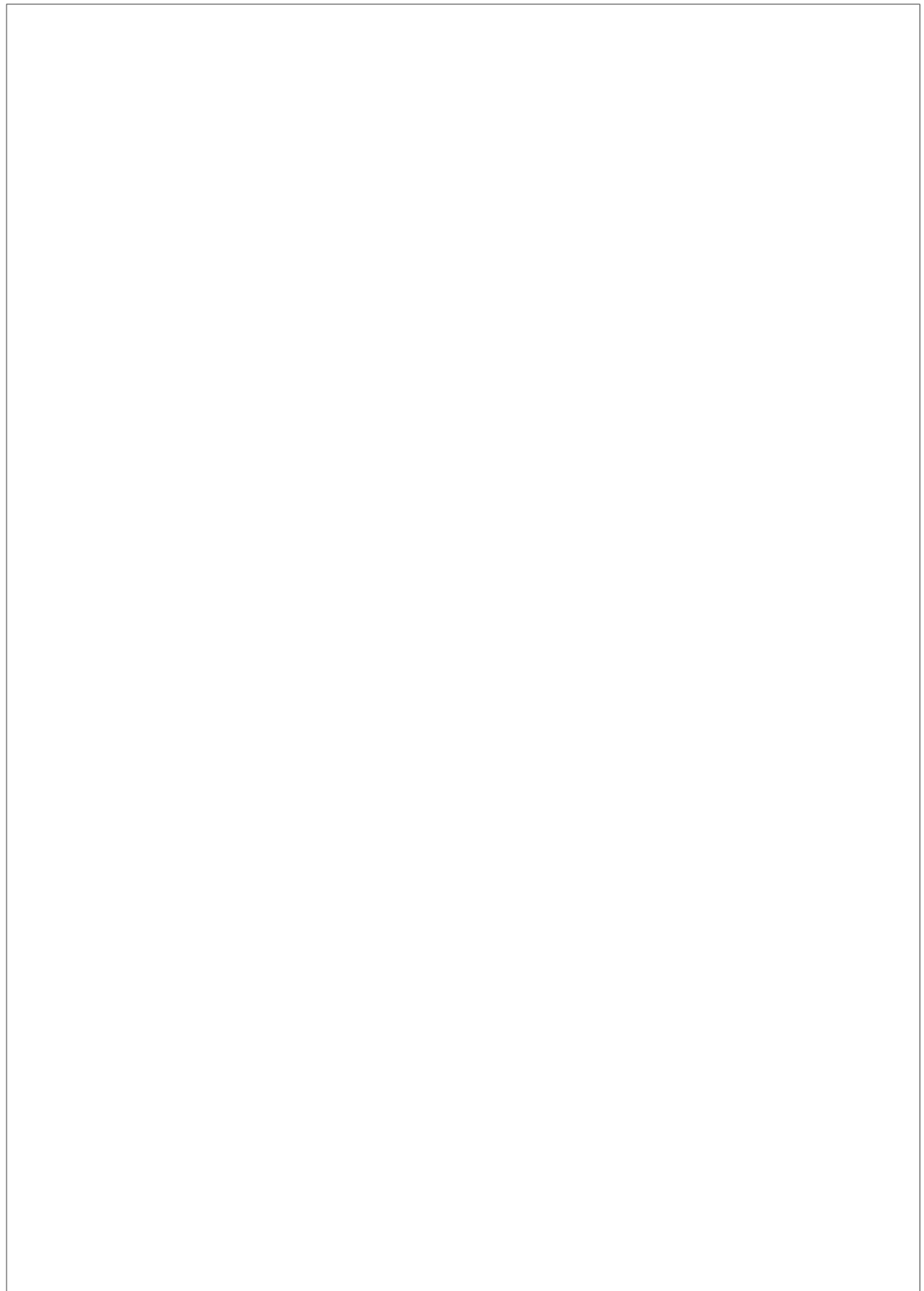
[REDACTED] the FARC requested contact with the US Government to gain its support for peace negotiations with Bogota and assurances of US non-involvement in Colombia's internal conflict. During a resultant meeting with US officials in December 1998, FARC representatives expressed satisfaction with the opportunity to engage the United States and indicated their willingness to cooperate in an investigation of the fate of the missing New Tribes missionaries.

- [REDACTED] all its contacts indicated as late as the morning of March 5—the day the hostages were killed—that the FARC was engaged in serious negotiations to arrange the victims' release. [REDACTED]

The FARC Secretariat's possible shortcomings in command and control over politically unsophisticated field commanders heighten the threat to US citizens in Colombia. The assassinations suggest that decades of indoctrination, propaganda, and disinformation have backfired on FARC leaders and, as a result, thugs with insurgent credentials may conduct terrorist operations without their leaders' knowledge or consent.

- The FARC issued a communique on 10 March announcing that it would judge and sanction the commander it deems responsible for the killings according to the organization's disciplinary code. The deterrent effect on other FARC guerrillas of a harsh ruling against the commander remains to be seen, but a firm ruling could improve the Secretariat's ability to rein in potential renegade units [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

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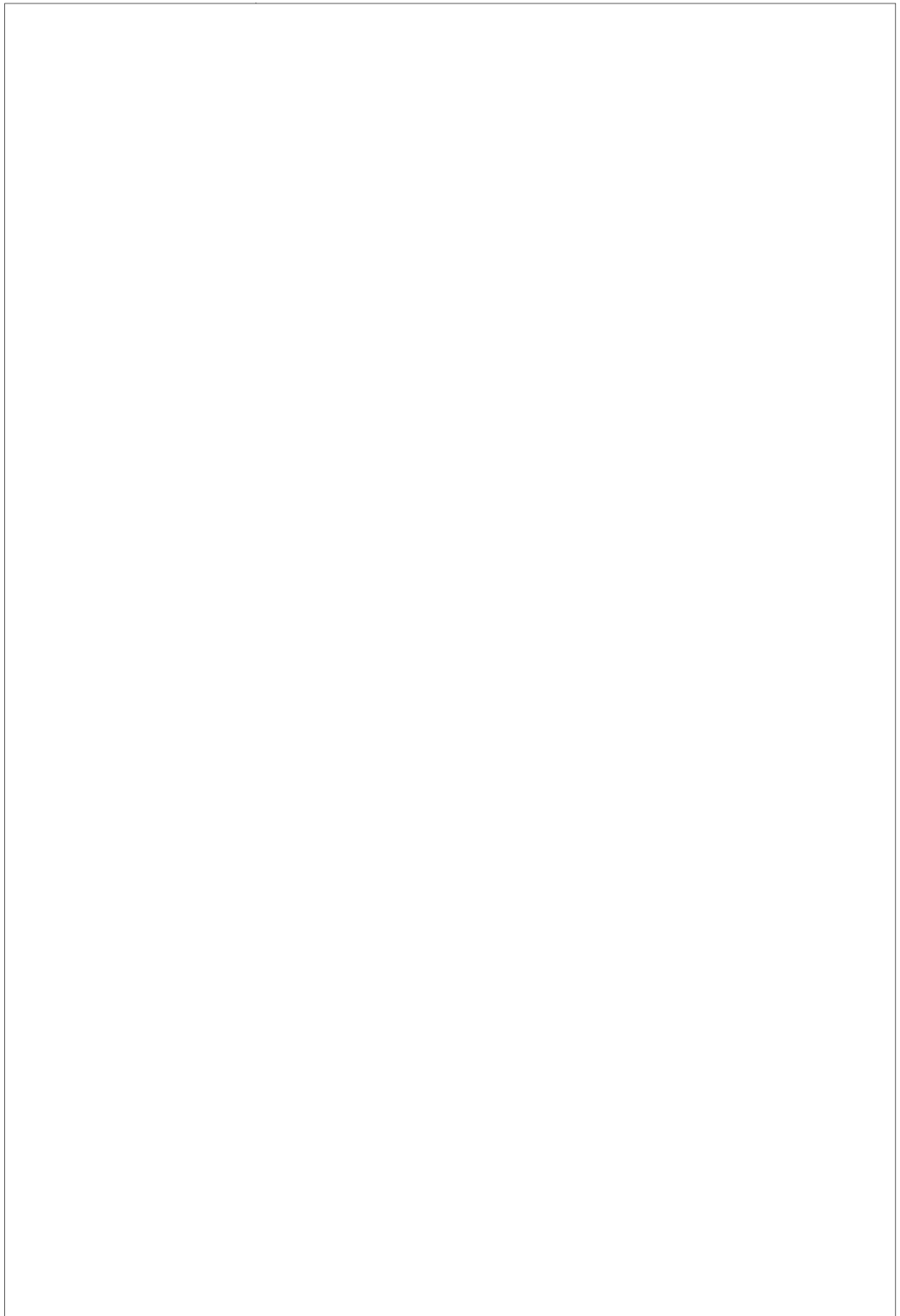
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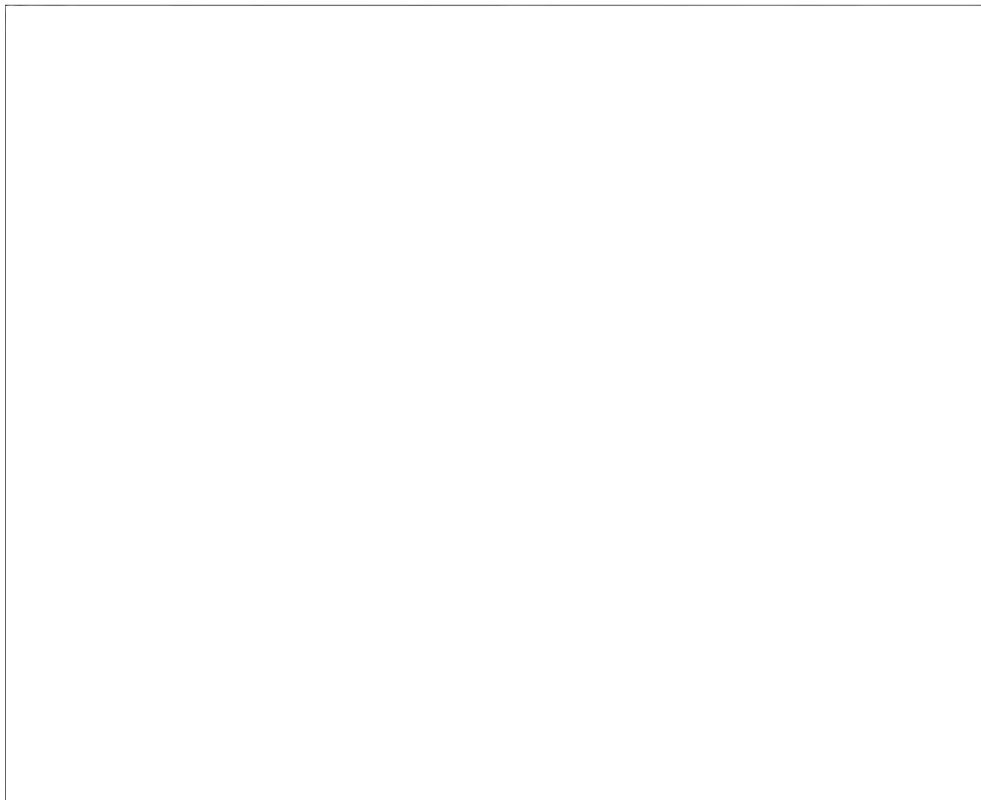
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The Terrorism Diary for April and May 1999

Below is a compendium of April and May dates of known or conceivable significance to terrorists around the world. Inclusion of a date or event does not suggest that we anticipate a commemorative terrorist event.

April	Armenians. April is dedicated by Armenian groups to the memory of the massacre of Armenians by Turks during World War I.
1 April 1979	Iran. Islamic Republic Day.
4 April 1947	Syria. Founding of Ba'th Party.
4 April 1979	Pakistan. Ex-President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto executed; the terrorist group Al-Zulfikar, founded by his two sons, is named after him.
4 April 1986	Libya. Libyan agents bombed La Belle discotheque in Berlin.
5-20 April 1988	Lebanon. Hizballah hijacks Kuwait Airways Flight 422.
7 April 1916	Ireland. Beginning of insurrection that led to independence.
8 April 1947	Iraq. Founding of ruling Ba'th Party.
11 April 1968	Palestinians. Founding of Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command (PFLP—GC).
13 April 1975	Lebanon. Phalange militiamen attack bus, triggering Lebanese civil war.
13 April 1999	Jewish World. Commemoration of the Holocaust.
14-15 April 1986	Libya. US aircraft bomb Tripoli and Benghazi in retaliation for Libyan involvement in anti-US terrorism.
18 April 1983	Lebanon. Hizballah's terrorist wing, Islamic Jihad, car-bombed the US Embassy in Beirut.
19 April 1980	Peru. The Sendero Luminoso Declaration of War.
21 April 1999	Israel. Independence Day.
22 April 1997	Peru. Death of MRTA Leader Nestor Cerpa Cartolini during the hostage rescue mission at the Japanese Ambassador's Residence.
24 April 1915	Armenians. National Day of Sorrow. Commemorates Turkish massacre.

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<i>28 April 1937</i>	<i>Iraq.</i> Birthday of Saddam Husayn.
<i>29 April 1986</i>	<i>India.</i> Sikh militants declare independent republic of Khalistan at Golden Temple in Amritsar; militants expelled from temple next day.
<i>1 May</i>	<i>Socialist World.</i> May Day (commemorates labor violence in Chicago).
<i>1 May 1980</i>	<i>Peru.</i> Destruction of electoral material in Chuschi, Cangallo Province, marks beginning of armed struggle by Sendero Luminoso; anniversary is commemorated by acts of violence throughout May, but especially on 16 May.
<i>2 May 1953</i>	<i>Jordan.</i> King Hussein assumed constitutional power.
<i>6 May 1900</i>	<i>Iran.</i> Birthday of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.
<i>14 May 1948</i>	<i>Middle East.</i> Beginning of first Arab-Israeli war.
<i>15 May 1948</i>	<i>Palestinians.</i> Palestine Day (end of UN mandate); 15 May Organization, founded in 1979 by remnant of Special Operations Group of Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), takes its name from this event.
<i>17 May 1983</i>	<i>Lebanon, Israel.</i> Signing of troop withdrawal accord (known as 17 May Agreement).
<i>30 May 1972</i>	<i>Israel.</i> Japanese Red Army massacre at Lod Airport, Tel Aviv.



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Chronology of International Terrorism—January-February 1999

The following incidents have met the criteria for the Intelligence Community's Incident Review Panel since publication of the previous issue of the Terrorism Review. These incidents are the basis for the State Department's Patterns of Global Terrorism, published annually as the US Government's official record of international terrorism.

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Africa

9 February

Nigeria: Officials of an unnamed oil company reported two workers, one British national and one Italian citizen, were kidnapped by unidentified assailants. The Italian was released shortly after being abducted. No demands have been made for the release of the remaining hostage. No one has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping. []

12 February

Sierra Leone: The Rome-based news agency MISNA reported that Revolutionary United Front rebels kidnapped an Italian missionary from a church. Press reports state the church was ransacked before the kidnapping. Church officials have been in contact with the victim and state he is in good health. []

14 February

Nigeria: [] one British employee and his young son were kidnapped by three armed bandits. Both hostages were released unharmed on 15 February. No ransom was paid. []

14 February

Uganda: A pipe bomb exploded inside a crowded bar, killing five persons and injuring 35 others. [] one Ethiopian and four Ugandans were killed in the blast, and one US citizen, two Swiss nationals, one Pakistani, one Ethiopian, and 27 Ugandans were injured. Eyewitnesses stated two unidentified Asians and one Ugandan police officer also were injured. The explosion caused extensive damage to the bar. Ugandan authorities blame the attack on the Allied Democratic Forces. []

Asia

9 February

India: [] Muslim militants threw a grenade at a security patrol in Pulwama Chowk, Kashmir, injuring 12 pedestrians and two security personnel. []

13 February

India: [] suspected armed Lashkar-i-Tayyiba militants slit the throats of four members of a Hindu family, including two children, in Udampur District, Kashmir. The militants critically wounded one other person. The victims were relatives of a member of the local village defense committee. []

15 February

India: [] Muslim militants shot and critically wounded the owner of a video shop in Srinagar, Kashmir. []

15 February

India: Muslim militants shot and wounded three cable television operators in Srinagar, Kashmir, in an attempt to ban Western broadcasts. [] the operators were shot in the legs and ordered to broadcast only news and current affairs. []

15 February

India: [] Muslim militants detonated a bomb in a crowded marketplace near Srinagar, Kashmir, injuring six persons. []

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16 February

Australia: Kurdish protesters armed with Molotov cocktails, gasoline drums, and clubs occupied the Greek Consulate in Sydney. [] one protester doused himself with lighter fluid, while outside at least 50 demonstrators chanted "shame on Greece." There were unconfirmed reports of office workers inside the building and teenage girls being detained as translators. The protest was part of an international Kurdish outrage over the capture of Abdullah Ocalan. []

Europe

8 February

Greece: A bomb exploded near the Turkish Consulate in Komotini, wounding a bomb squad member and causing minor damage. [] a telephone caller to local authorities warned of and later claimed responsibility for the bomb on behalf of the group "Support to Ocalan—The Hawks of Thrace." []

16 February

Austria: Kurdish protesters stormed and occupied the Greek Embassy in Vienna, taking the Greek Ambassador and six others hostage. Shortly before midnight the protesters released the hostages and left the Embassy. []

16 February

Belgium: Approximately 50 Kurdish protesters occupied the Greek Embassy in Brussels and threatened to set themselves on fire if they were removed. According to a Reuters reporter on the scene, at least 27 Kurds were arrested by authorities after they left the building peacefully. []

16 February

France: Fifty Kurdish protesters occupied the Greek Consulate in Marseille, threw objects at local authorities, and threatened to set themselves on fire. Two unidentified persons were injured and several were arrested before the protesters left the Consulate. []

16 February

France: Sixteen Kurdish protesters occupied the Kenyan Embassy in Paris and took seven Kenyan officials hostage. According to press reports, local police were able to end the occupation and gain the hostages' release without injuries. []

16 February

France: Thirty Kurdish protesters occupied the Greek Consulate in Strasbourg, according to press reports. Local authorities fired tear gas and stormed the Consulate, arresting 20 protesters. One police officer and six protesters were injured during the clash. []

16 February

Germany: According to press reports Kurdish protesters occupied the Kenyan Embassy in Bonn and held one person hostage for 12 hours before surrendering to police. []

16 February

Germany: Approximately 32 Kurdish protesters stormed the Greek Consulate in Cologne, causing major damage. According to press reports, police arrested the protesters and one police officer was injured during the attack. []

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16 February *Germany: According to press reports, 15 Kurdish protesters stormed and occupied the Greek Consulate in Hannover and threw stones at police for several hours.* []

16 February *Germany: Approximately 40 Kurdish protesters stormed the Kenyan National Tourist office in Frankfurt and took four employees hostage. The protesters released the hostages and left the office several hours later after being assured no one would be arrested.* []

16 February *Germany: Approximately 75 Kurdish protesters occupied a travel agency located in a building housing the Greek Consulate in Leipzig. According to press reports, three travel agents were held hostage until authorities stormed the facility and freed them.* []

16 February *Italy: Approximately 30 Kurdish protesters occupied the Greek Consulate in Milan and held six persons hostage for four hours before surrendering, according to press reports.* []

16 February *Netherlands: Approximately 150 Kurdish protesters stormed the Greek Ambassador's residence in The Hague, taking the Ambassador's wife, their eight-year-old son, and a Filipino servant hostage. According to press reports, the protesters were arrested after they released the hostages early the following morning* []

16 February *Switzerland: According to media reports, Kurdish protesters stormed the Greek Consulate in Zurich, taking hostage the building's owner and a Swiss police officer. On 17 February press reports stated the police officer was still being held.*
[]

16 February *United Kingdom: Approximately 100 Kurdish protesters stormed and occupied the Greek Embassy in London, taking one night watchman hostage. On 18 February the protesters left the Greek Embassy peacefully and surrendered to authorities.* []

17 February *Germany: Approximately 200 Kurdish protesters armed with clubs broke into the Israeli Consulate in Berlin and briefly took one Consulate worker hostage. Israeli guards shot and killed three protesters and wounded 15 others during the attack.* []

Latin America

20 January *Colombia: Local press reported that unidentified rebels bombed the Cano Limon-Covenas pipeline, causing undetermined damage.* []

26 January *Venezuela: Five armed guerrillas from the National Liberation Army (ELN) kidnapped five Venezuelan engineers working for the Venezuelan Petroleum Company. [] the victims were driven away in a green van that later was found burning near the Colombian border. The ELN later telephoned the petroleum company stating their negotiation demands.* []

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3 February *Colombia: ELN rebels dynamited the Cano Limon-Covenas pipeline, causing an undetermined amount of damage, according to local press.* [redacted]

4 February *Colombia: [redacted] the ELN rebels bombed the Cano Limon-Covenas pipeline, causing a 7,000-barrel oil spill.* [redacted]

Middle East

17 January *Yemen: [redacted] four armed tribesmen attempted to kidnap two Embassy employees as they drove to work. The tribesmen rammed into their vehicle and pulled in front in an attempt to stop it. The victims drove around their attackers and escaped.* [redacted]

21 January *United Arab Emirates: Authorities found and dismantled an explosive device in a Dubai supermarket that is frequented by US and European shoppers.* [redacted]
[redacted]

31 January *Yemen: Tribesmen abducted a British oil worker employed by the US company Hunt Oil. He was released unharmed six hours later, according to tribal and news sources* [redacted]

North America

16 February *Canada: Approximately 60 Kurdish protesters forced their way into the building housing the Greek Consulate in Montreal, but were unable to gain entry to the Consulate floor. [redacted] the protesters then occupied a branch of the National Bank of Greece, causing major damage.* [redacted]

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Summary of Indigenous Terrorism—January-February 1999

The incidents listed below provide an overview of indigenous terrorism worldwide.

Africa

Angola

On 14 February in Benguela, [redacted] armed *National Union for the Total Independence of Angola* rebels ambushed two civilian vehicles, killing six persons. [redacted]

South Africa

On 19 February, four unidentified assailants in a minivan intercepted and opened fire on a police officer in his vehicle in Cape Town, seriously wounding him. The victim is an investigating officer with Cape Town's anti-gang unit and the son-in-law of former President Botha. [redacted] *People Against Gangsterism and Drugs* is responsible [redacted]

Uganda

A pipe bomb exploded inside a bar in Kampala on 14 February, causing major damage but no injuries. [redacted] the *Allied Democratic Forces* is responsible [redacted]

Asia

Philippines

On 14 February, local media reported that suspected members of the *Abu Sayyaf Group* and *Moro Islamic Liberation Front* attacked a passenger vehicle in Basilan, killing the driver and four passengers and wounding one other person. [redacted]

Rebels from the *New People's Army (NPA)* kidnapped two military officers in Davao City, Mindanao, on 17 February. The NPA later issued a statement that the two officers would be tried in a revolutionary court. They also stated they wanted to swap the hostages for one of their imprisoned leaders [redacted]

On 21 February, [redacted] seven armed NPA rebels burst into a home in Sorsogon Province, killing the owner and abducting a visiting police official. [redacted]

Eurasia

Uzbekistan

Five car bombs exploded outside government buildings in Tashkent on 16 February, killing 15 persons, wounding 130 others, and causing major damage. One bomb exploded outside the Cabinet Ministers' building where President Karimov was expected to attend a meeting. Karimov stated that two suspects shouted "Allahu Akbar" (God is Great) after carrying out the attack, leading him to conclude that *Hizballah* or Wahabbis were behind the bombing. [redacted]

Europe

Northern Ireland

On 27 January in Newry, County Down, a former *Irish Republican Army (IRA)* member was found dead on a roadside. Authorities refused to speculate whether the IRA was responsible for the attack. [redacted]

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Eight armed assailants carved a death threat onto the arms and legs of a woman after breaking into her Bessbrook residence. The assailants were searching for a man who was not home at the time, according to 24 February press reports. A human rights group accused the IRA of responsibility for the attack. []

Spain

Two bombs exploded outside two banks in Vitoria on 14 February, causing minor damage, according to press reports. The attacks bear the hallmark of the *Basque Fatherland and Liberty* or its supporters. []

Turkey

Unidentified assailants threw a grenade at a cafe in Istanbul on 28 February, injuring 17 persons and causing undetermined damage. []
[] the *Kurdistan Workers' Party* or its sympathizers are responsible []

Latin America

Bolivia

On 11 February in La Paz, [] *Tupac Katari Revolutionary Army* guerrillas robbed the Union Bank, causing undetermined damage []

Colombia

According to press sources, *National Liberation Army* guerrillas attacked a police patrol in Arauca on 30 January, killing four officers and wounding another []

On 1 February, *Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)* rebels attacked a police station in Genova, wounding two police officers and kidnapping four others. [] the rebels continued their raid by destroying the mayor's office, a local bank, and several stores. []

Local press reported that on 5 February, unidentified armed guerrillas burned a farm in Altobonito, killing three persons and kidnapping two others. []

On 7 February in Villa Hermosa, local radio reported *FARC* rebels attacked the village, burning a state-owned bank and injuring a police officer. []

Middle East

Algeria

17 February in Chaabet, armed militants stormed a farm killing two persons and wounding one other, according to press reports. The attack bears the hallmark of the *Armed Islamic Group (GIA)*. []

On 17 February in Maamar, press reported that an armed group killed one person and wounded another at a roadblock. []

On 18 February, armed militants killed one person and wounded another in Tizi-Ouzou, according to press reports. []

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On 22 February in Medea, a bomb exploded, wounding two persons, according to press reports.

On February in Khemis, according to press reports, a boobytrapped parcel bomb exploded in a restaurant, killing four persons and wounding 22 others. This attack bears the hallmark of the *GIA*.